



STATE OF MINNESOTA

## Violent Crime Coordinating Council

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*Sartell Police Chief Jim Hughes, Chair*  
*Ramsey County Undersheriff Mike Martin, Vice-Chair*

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### **MINUTES of Violent Crime Coordinating Council Meeting – Wednesday, May 12, 2021** **(Rescheduled from April 14, 2021)**

*Meeting was held on Microsoft Teams*

Attendees: Jim Hughes, John Harrington, Booker Hodges, Drew Evans, Andy Dunne, Richard Dusterhoft, Shane Baker, David Hutchinson, Mike Martin, Scott Hable, Dan Starry, Medaria Arradondo, Don Benner, Jeff Tate, Mark Uner, Kate Weeks, Ken Sass, and Kristin Lail.

Chair Hughes was not able to connect audio so Vice Chair Mike Martin called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Motion by Scott Hable, second by David Hutchinson to approve minutes from the February 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. The motion passed.

Motion by Shane Baker, second by David Hutchinson to approve the May 12<sup>th</sup> agenda. The motion passed.

#### **Committee Updates**

Drew Evans reported that the Professional Standards met remotely to review the 2020 VCET audits and plans for 2021 peer review. They plan to wait to address any changes to the *Guidelines Manual* until after the legislative session.

The Governance Committee did not meet, but Drew Evans provided an update on legislative initiatives addressing asset seizure and forfeiture, confidential informants, traffic stops and no-knock warrants. He also noted that the Senate has included additional funding for VCETs, but it is not in the House. Commissioner John Harrington added that a bill was introduced to add a VCET for Metro Transit. At the federal level, lawmakers continue to negotiate a police reform bill including provisions for qualified immunity.

#### **Statewide Coordinator Update**

Ken Sass reported that they were calling in from Camp Ripley where the annual VCET Commander Training was taking place. It included presentations from the U.S. Attorney's Office, Attorney General's Office, DEA, BCA, MOCIC, HIDTA and the National Guard Counter Drug Program. He has met with several new commanders and has VCET peer review site visit schedule set up starting at the end of the month. He is also meeting with cities and counties not currently in VCET who may be interested in applying for 2022.

**VCET Grant Update**

Kristin Lail noted that unspent administrative funds from 2020 will be redistributed to current VCET grants for insurance, equipment and other program expenses. Grant amendments must be executed by 6/30/21. The VCCC reviewed VCET Eligibility Criteria and is not recommending any changes for the 2022 VCET RFP. The grant timeline will be available to review at the June VCCC meeting. Mike Martin noted that the HIDTA grant application from St. Cloud was not funded.

**Partner updates**

Hennepin County reported changes in charging policies in marijuana cases. They are also discussing whether the smell of marijuana should no longer be probable cause for a vehicle search, citing officer safety concerns. Ramsey County continues to charge 5<sup>th</sup> degree marijuana cases when there are firearms present. They are also limiting no knock warrants. VCET quarterly reports break out marijuana seizures by grams, vape cartridges and other concentrates. The BCA is now testing THC levels in marijuana wax and oils for charging, but does not test edibles.

The VCCC meeting was adjourned by Vice Chair Martin at 10:30 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING:**

Wednesday, June 9, 2021 via WebEx and also in-person at the BCA.